## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended ) A method comprising:

charging a first price for a computer system;

detecting at least one system problem in the computer system that is addressable by at least one chargeable technology;

executing in the computer system the at least one chargeable technology for each occurrence of the detected at least one system problem;

tracking the execution by the computer system of the at least one chargeable technology, wherein said tracking includes:

gathering information relative to the execution; and

storing the information in secure storage that is protected from tampering; and

charging ~~an additional price~~ on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology by the computer system.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first price is lower than a break-even price for a provider of the computer system.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, said information comprising:

a date and time of the execution;

an identity of the chargeable technology executed; and

unique identifying information associated with the computer system.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 further comprising encrypting the collected data before storing the collected data.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein charging ~~an additional price~~ on a per usage basis comprises:

gathering the stored data relating to each execution of [[a]] the chargeable technology;

creating a technology usage report indicating at least the number of times each chargeable technology has been executed;

creating an invoice representing per-usage charges of the executions of the at least one chargeable technology; and

sending the report and the invoice to a user of the computer system.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said computer system comprises at least two computer systems delivered by a system provider to at least two users within a group.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6 wherein tracking the execution of the at least one chargeable technology comprises tracking said execution on all systems within the group, and

wherein charging ~~an additional price~~ on the per usage basis comprises charging one additional price to the group for all executions of the at least one chargeable technology by the users within the group.

8. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

detecting at least one system problem on a client computing system that is addressable by a chargeable technology;

selecting execution of [[a]] the chargeable technology on [[a]] the client computing system, wherein the chargeable technology is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the chargeable technology;

executing said selected chargeable technology for each occurrence of the at least one system problem;

collecting data relating to said execution on said client computing system; and

storing said collected data in a protected storage area on said system, wherein the protected storage area is protected from tampering.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein said collected data comprises:

a date and time of the execution;

an identity of the chargeable technology executed; and

unique identifying information associated with the client computing system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising encrypting said data prior to storing said data.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

gathering said collected data from the protected storage area and forwarding said collected data to a predetermined central location on the network in response to the client computing system being connected to the network.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the determining, gathering and forwarding steps are performed without the intervention or knowledge of a user of said system.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the selecting execution step comprises initiation by a user of the system.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the selecting execution step comprises an automatic selection by the system based on an occurrence of a pre-determined event, without the intervention or knowledge of a user of the system.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

recognizing in a primary operating mode of a computer system ~~an~~ at least one event indicating a need for execution by the computer system of at least one chargeable technology, wherein the at least one chargeable technology is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology;

entering an alternate operating mode stored in the BIOS of the system by initiating execution of an alternate operating system;

selecting execution of a chargeable technology on said system;

executing said selected chargeable technology for each occurrence of the recognized at least one event;

collecting data relating to said execution on said computer system;

returning control of the system to the primary operating system for normal operation; and

storing said collected data in a protected storage area on said system.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting execution step comprises a selection by a user of the system of a chargeable technology to execute from a menu or list of available chargeable technologies presented to said user.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting execution step comprises an automatic selection by the system of a chargeable technology to execute based on the type of the event.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising encrypting and digitally signing the data prior to storing the data.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the stored collected data is protected from tampering.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said alternate operating system is provided on the system in a manner which is hidden from a user of the system and protected from tampering.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising:

gathering said stored data and forwarding said data to a predetermined central location on the network in response to determining the system is connected to the network.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the acts of recognizing, selecting, executing, collecting, and storing, and gathering and forwarding are performed without the intervention or knowledge of a user of the system.

23. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

executing an alternate operating mode stored at a central location in response to recognizing in a primary operating mode of a remote computer system ~~an~~ at least one event indicating a need for execution by the remote computer system of at least one chargeable technology, wherein the at least one chargeable technology is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology;

receiving at the central location data representing the need for the at least one chargeable technology; and

storing said data in a protected area of said central location, wherein the protected area protects stored data from tampering.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising decrypting said data prior to storing said data.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said data comprises:

a date and time of the execution;

an identity of the chargeable technology executed; and

unique identifying information associated with the remote system.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

in response to the central location having connectivity to the remote system[[;]]:

gathering the stored data corresponding to said remote system;

creating an invoice representing per-usage charges for said execution of said at least one chargeable technology; and

forwarding said invoice to the remote system.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 26 wherein said remote system comprises at least two remote systems associated with at least two users within at least one group.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27 wherein gathering the stored data corresponding to said remote system comprises gathering all stored data corresponding to remote systems associated with members of the same group;

wherein creating an invoice comprises creating an invoice representing per-usage charges for all executions of said at least one chargeable technology by members of the same group; and

wherein forwarding said invoice to the remote system comprises forwarding said invoice to a network address identified as corresponding to the group.

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving data from a client system relating to execution by a user on said system of at least one chargeable technology that is executed when at least one event is recognized needing the at least one chargeable technology, wherein the at least one chargeable technology is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology;

storing said data in a tamper proof manner retrievable according to the user; and

periodically retrieving said data according to user and creating a technology usage

report for each user indicating at least a number of executions of each chargeable technology by each user.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

configuring the client system with at least one chargeable technology; and

configuring the client system with a capability to track and report data relating to the execution by a user of the system of the at least one chargeable technology.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein said technology report comprises an invoice representing per-usage charges for each execution of said at least one chargeable technology.

32. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

at least one central processing unit (CPU);

a memory operatively connected to the CPU;

a non-volatile storage operatively connected to the CPU and holding at least a primary operating system for execution on said CPU and effective to execute controlling the operation of the system;

a bootable device operatively connected to the system and holding at least an alternate operating system for execution on said CPU and effective when executing for controlling the operation of the system;

a communication interface operatively connected to said CPU for interfacing said system with a network;

at least one chargeable technology accessible for execution on said CPU that is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology; and

a chargeable-technology-usage-tracking component accessible for execution on said CPU for tracking the execution by the system of the at least one chargeable technology.

33. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 32, wherein the alternate operating system is located in a tamper proof, protected and hidden area and wherein said alternate operating system executes on said CPU to control the execution of said chargeable technology and said chargeable-technology-usage-tracking component.

34. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 32 further comprising a secure, hidden area of said non-volatile storage for use by said chargeable-technology-usage-tracking component in storing data relating to the execution by the system of said at least one chargeable technology.

35. (Currently Amended) A central-location computer system comprising:

at least one central processing unit (CPU);

a memory operatively connected to the CPU;

a non-volatile storage operatively connected to the CPU and holding at least a primary operating system for execution on said CPU which is effective to execute controlling the operation of the system;

a BIOS of the system that holds at least an alternate operating system for execution on said CPU in response to recognizing in the primary operating system ~~an~~ at least one event indicating a need for execution of at least one chargeable technology, wherein said at least one chargeable technology is charged for on a per usage basis for each execution of the at least one chargeable technology;

a communication interface operatively connected to said CPU for interfacing said system with a network;

a chargeable-technology-data-receiving component for receiving from remote systems data indicative of execution on said remote systems of the at least one chargeable technology; and

a technology-usage-data-reporting-and-billing component for periodically sending to the remote systems a usage report detailing the use by the remote systems of the at least one chargeable technology.

36. (Previously presented) The central-location computer system of claim 35, further comprising a secure, hidden area of said non-volatile storage for use by said chargeable-technology-data-receiving component in storing the data received from the remote systems.

37. (Previously presented) The central-location computer system of claim 36 wherein said usage report comprises an invoice representing per-usage charges for the executions by the remote systems of the at least one chargeable technology.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one chargeable technology is the computer system.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one chargeable technology is at least one of hardware or software of the computer system.